(c) what is the time-frame for submission of the Report of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) During the meeting of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the Central Trade Unions on 18th October, 2002, some of the trade union leaders had raised the issue of condition of workers in disinvested companies such as BALCO and Modern Foods. In view of this, a team of officials is proposed to be sent to assess the impact of disinvestment on labour in BALCO and Modern Foods.

EPF subscribers

2302. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of EPF subscribers in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken to ensure early settlement of their claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As on 31.3.2002, there were 274.18 lakh Employees Provident Fund subscribers in the country.

(b) The Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund) has approved in October 2002, a modernization programme, namely 'Reinventing Employees Provident Fund-India' which will enable the subscribers to access their accounts and file their claims from any of the EPF offices as against the present system which limits them only to one office, where they are registered. This would substantially reduce the time between receipt of claim and issue of cheque.

Employment scenario

2303. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of unemployment problem indicating the number of unemployed, both educated and uneducated, State-wise and the manpower planning made in this regard; and